UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/46/20
17 March 1992

Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 30

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/46/L.19/Rev.1)]

46/20. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, 1/

Recalling its previous resolutions on the enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, in particular resolutions 43/12 of 25 October 1988, 43/27 of 18 November 1988, 44/17 of 1 November 1989 and 45/13 of 7 November 1990,

Recalling also the agreement of 15 November 1965 on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity as updated and signed on 9 October 1990 by the Secretaries-General of the two organizations,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions, decisions and declarations adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its fifty-fourth ordinary session, held at Abuja, Nigeria, from 27 May to 1 June 1991, 2/ and by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of that organization at its twenty-seventh ordinary session held at Abuja from 3 to 5 June 1991, 3/ in particular its resolution AHG/Res. 205 (XXVII) on the African Economic Community,

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1/ A/46/468 and Add.1 and 2.

2/ A/46/390, annex I.

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Considering the important statement made by the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity before the General Assembly on 4 October 1991, 4/

Mindful of the need for continued and closer cooperation between the United Nations and the specialized agencies and the Organization of African Unity, in particular in the political, economic, social, technical, cultural and administrative fields,

Also mindful of the current political development in South Africa and conscious of the need to provide increased assistance to the people of South Africa and to their national liberation movements in their legitimate struggle to eradicate the policies of apartheid, and to the independent States of southern Africa that are victims of such policies,

Deeply concerned that the critical economic situation persists in Africa despite the policies of reform being implemented by African countries,

Concerned that some constraints, such as the collapse of prices of primary commodities, severe debt-servicing burdens and limited availability of finance, continue to pose critical obstacles to African economic recovery and development,

Considering that the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 5/ did not live up to expectations,

Aware of the efforts under way by the Organization of African Unity and its member States in the area of economic integration and, in particular, the adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on 3 June 1991 at Abuja of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community,

Recalling further that in its resolution 45/13 it, inter alia, called for increased support from the United Nations and its relevant agencies for the establishment of an African economic community,

Deeply concerned about the gravity of the situation of the refugees and displaced persons in Africa and the urgent need for increased international assistance to help African countries of asylum,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity and of his efforts to strengthen this cooperation and to implement the relevant resolutions;

3/ A/46/390, annex II.

4/ See A/46/PV.22.

5/ Resolution S-13/2, annex.

2. Notes with appreciation the increasing and continued participation of the Organization of African Unity in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and its constructive contribution to that work;

3. Notes also with appreciation the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to reactivate the consultative mechanism between the two organizations;

4. Commends the continued efforts of the Organization of African Unity to promote multilateral cooperation and economic integration among African States and requests the United Nations system to continue to lend its support to these efforts;

5. Calls upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue to ensure closer cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity on the issue of decolonization;

6. Reiterates the determination of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, to continue its efforts for the early eradication of racial discrimination and apartheid in South Africa and to provide adequate assistance to that end;

7. Urges the international community to contribute generously to the Assistance Fund for the Struggle against Colonialism and Apartheid, established by the Organization of African Unity, and to the Action for Resisting Invasion, Colonialism and Apartheid Fund, established by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries; 6/

8. Calls upon the United Nations organs - in particular the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Special Committee against Apartheid - to continue to involve closely the Organization of African Unity in all their activities concerning Africa;

9. Urges all Member States and regional and international organizations, in particular those of the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations to provide economic and technical assistance to African countries of asylum to enable them to withstand the heavy burden imposed on their limited resources and weak infrastructure by the presence in their countries of large numbers of refugees;

10. Urges the United Nations to provide such technical assistance as may be appropriate to the Organization of African Unity should the latter decide to launch a peace-keeping operation;

11. Reaffirms that the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s 7/ will necessitate the full participation of the international community, in particular of the

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6/ See A/42/422, annex III.

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 41 (A/46/41), sect. IV, annex II.

Governments, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and emphasizes the importance and the need to ensure follow-up to and monitoring and implementation of the New Agenda in accordance with General Assembly decisions;

12. Calls upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to work in close coordination and cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, in particular on follow-up to and review and evaluation of the implementation of the New Agenda;

13. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to invite the representative of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to participate in the meetings of all the United Nations bodies/committees and its working groups on follow-up to and monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the New Agenda;

14. Urges the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system to extend their support and cooperation to the member States and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity for the effective organizational arrangement and smooth functioning of the African Economic Community;

15. Also urges all Member States and regional and international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to provide support as appropriate to the establishment of the African Economic Community, and to assist in economic integration and cooperation in Africa, in particular by providing financial and technical assistance to African regional and subregional organizations such as the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States, the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic Community of West African States and the Arab Maghreb Union, as well as those for drought and desertification such as the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development;

16. Reiterates its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his continued efforts to mobilize international support for special programmes of economic assistance to African States facing grave economic difficulties, as well as to the front-line States and other independent States of southern Africa to help them to cope with the effects of the acts of aggression and destabilization committed by the apartheid regime of South Africa;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to keep the Organization of African Unity informed periodically of measures taken by the United Nations system and by the international community in support of the implementation of special programmes of economic assistance in Africa;

18. Endorses the agreement reached between the organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of African Unity for the convening of a meeting between the secretariats of those organizations, to be held in 1992, in order to review and evaluate the final progress achieved in the implementation of the proposals and recommendations agreed upon in April 1990 and 1991 on cooperation between the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations system for 1990-1991 and to adopt new and effective joint action;

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19. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to support the efforts of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, with a view to holding sectoral meetings in the priority areas of cooperation, particularly the establishment of the African Economic Community and the strengthening of the African regional and subregional organizations;

20. Requests the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity to ensure that the representatives of their secretariats continue to hold regular consultations, as and when appropriate, on the implementation of the present resolution;

21. Calls upon the relevant organs of the United Nations system to continue to ensure the fair and equitable representation of Africa at senior and policy levels at their respective headquarters and in their regional and field operations;

22. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations information network continues to disseminate information so as to increase public awareness of the situation prevailing in southern Africa, as well as of the social and economic problems and needs of African States and of their regional and subregional institutions;

23. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution and on the development of cooperation between the Organization of African Unity and the organizations within the United Nations system.

55th plenary meeting
26 November 1991